

SELECTIONS  
FROM THE  
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE  
PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND  
CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 23rd March, 1872.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

THE *Aina-i-Aib-Numá-i-Hind*, of the 9th March, invites the attention of the Punjab Government to the case of Sahib Dyal, Tehseeldar of Attock, in the Rawul Pindee District. The Tehseeldar has been dismissed from his post on account of a quarrel with Jwala Sahai, Judicial Mohurrir, on the report of the Extra Assistant Commissioner of Attock, who was on bad terms with him. The Tehseeldar has been in Government service eighteen years in the Districts of Hoshiarpore, Jullundur, Sirsa, and Rawul Pindee. In the first of these districts he was employed for seven years, and in the last two he held the appointment of Tehseeldar for ten years. During the whole period of his service he discharged his duties with energy and honesty, and was well thought of both by the people and the superior officers. On two occasions he distinguished himself: during the mutiny of 1857, and in the assessment of the income-tax in 1863, when he was Tehseeldar at Sirsa. For his loyal conduct in the former he was granted a *khillut* of Rs. 100, and for his energetic action in the latter he received a reward of an equal sum.

With all these circumstances in his favour, it is said to be unjust that the man should have been removed from his office on the trivial charge of having quarrelled with a mohurrir. The



grounds on which the Financial Commissioner considers him unfit for being re-instated in office, namely that the Deputy Commissioner of Rawul Pindie entertains a bad opinion of his character, and that the character-book of Sirsa does not speak well of him, are weak and insufficient, when considered by the light of his previous career and the certificates of good service in his possession. The opinion of the Deputy Commissioner of Rawul Pindie, who has only known the man for four or five months, can scarcely be of much value. The writer expresses a hope that the Punjab Government will take the case into consideration.

The *Latíf-ul-Akhbár*, of the same date, remarks that the sum of Rs. 15,000, given to the Punjab University by the Maharajah of Pattiala, as a thanksgiving offering on account of the recovery of the Prince of Wales, would have been better spent in the relief of the famine-stricken people of Sirsa, or the support of poor persons, though, perhaps, in the latter case the Maharajah's generosity would not have made as much show as it has now done.

The *Gwalior Gazette*, of the 10th March, has been informed that daring dacoities have recently been committed in Azimgurh in open day. One man is said to have been robbed of Rs. 40,000 worth of property.

The *Muir Gazette*, of the 12th March, learns from a letter from Dacca, dated 3rd idem, that a fine of Rs. 20 was imposed on some of the houses in the city, and that by this oppressive measure a sum of Rs. 1,000 was collected. Most of the persons fined are so poor that they have barely sufficient clothing, and are unable to support themselves and their families.

The *Akmal-ul-Akhbár*, of the 13th March, in its column of local news, notices the prevalence of daring robberies in the city (Delhi). It is remarked that the fears entertained at the time when the *Calcutta Gate*, the *Cabul Gate*, and the *Mores Gate* were pulled down, that the city would be preyed upon by



thieves and highwaymen, have proved true. Several serious cases have happened this year, and if the state of things continues as it is at present, robberies and dacoities will in time be committed in broad daylight. On the 12th March last three or four dacoits entered the streets underneath the Jami Musjid at midnight, and made their way into the house of a tailor, who opposed them, but was severely beaten. On returning the dacoits inflicted severe blows, first on a constable named Ameer Ali, on the latter interrogating them as to who they were, and afterwards on a huwuldar who made a stand against them with a drawn sword in his hand. The constables at the city police station pursued the thieves, but without success. One man has been arrested on suspicion.

The *Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Panjab*, of the 15th March, publishes the proposals suggested by Pundit Doorga Prasad, a member of the *Anjuman*, for doing away with the abuses connected with the marriage contract among the people of the Punjab, which were discussed at a recent meeting of the Society (*vide* pp. 115-118 of the *Selections* for the week ending 29th February last). The upshot of these proposals is that in each city, town, and village, native registrars should be appointed with the approval of the inhabitants, and under the sanction of Deputy Commissioners, for registering all marriages that may take place in their respective jurisdictions. The writer enters into a minute and elaborate detail of the rules and precautions which should be observed in the registration, and would ask the authorities to base the decisions of all suits connected with such contracts on the registers in which they have been entered. He would not make the registration compulsory, but at the same time would debar all persons who fail to have their marriage registered from the right of having recourse to the Courts.

[The same paper takes exception to the principles on which juries are appointed to pass judgment in criminal cases relating to European subjects, which are brought into a final

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Court of Appeal, that is a High Court, or a Chief Court, for decision. The writer begins by stating that according to the English law, the preliminary investigations into cases of Europeans, of whatever rank and position, who are accused of a crime, can be conducted only by European Magistrates in their capacity as justices of the peace, after which the cases are sent up for trial in the High Court in the exercise of its original jurisdiction, before Judges who must be barristers-at-law, a proceeding to which he objects as partial and unjust, there being no reason why natives should not enjoy similar privileges as regards the decision of their cases. He then takes up the jury question, which he treats as follows:—

Supposing it were allowed to be at all just that the preliminary investigations into cases of Europeans should be conducted by Magistrates, and the cases be then committed to a High Court or a Court Martial, as the case may be, it is nevertheless absurd that the decisions passed by such a Court should be overruled by the jury. As it is, after the usual procedure of the Court has terminated, the witnesses been heard, the depositions taken down in the presence of the jury, and the Judge has explained the nature and circumstances of the case, the jurymen are allowed a certain time to consult together and express their opinion on the subject. All they have to do is to pass a verdict of 'guilty' or 'not guilty,' and, if there are several charges against a man, to pronounce whether one or more of them are proved or disproved. In accordance with the judgment passed by them, the Judge is compelled by law to pass the sentence, though such judgment may be entirely at variance with the decision which he himself has arrived at. It often happens that a criminal's guilt has been proved beyond a doubt, and yet on the jury pronouncing the verdict of 'not guilty,' the Judge is obliged to acquit him.

The writer considers such procedure a mockery of justice. He illustrates the truth of his statement by alluding to the case of a European soldier which was tried at a recent session of the Chief Court, Punjab. The soldier drove a nail into



the cheek of a native for a trivial offence, which reduced him to the point of death. The criminal, on being brought before the Court openly confessed his guilt, adding at the same time that he had been imprisoned several times before at Calcutta and Allahabad for various offences. In the face of this confession, which clearly showed that he was a professed criminal, the jury, through national partiality, only pronounced the prisoner guilty of having caused hurt, though in the Judge's opinion the offence ranked as grievous hurt. The opinion of the jury of course prevailed, and the European soldier was only sentenced to imprisonment for 6 weeks or so, though otherwise the term of imprisonment would have been three years at the least.

Even Judges cannot help telling the jury on such occasions that they have been partial to the prisoner, and that their decision would be extremely injurious to the community; but, nevertheless, they must adhere to the law and cannot depart from the jury's opinion.

The writer invites the attention of Government to the abuse. He would impress on Government the necessity of amending the law relating to the appointment of juries with reference to the following reforms:—

(a) Jurors should be invested with no more power than assessors now enjoy; in other words, it should not be obligatory on the Court to abide by their judgment.

(b) Juries should not be composed exclusively of Europeans. On the contrary, in cases in which one of the parties is a Native and the other a Europeans, six of the members should be Europeans and the other six Natives.

(c) The greatest care should be taken in the selection of persons to form a jury. They should be able, experienced, and honest. Under the existing arrangements, the members selected are for the most part *keranées*, clerks of railway and other Government offices, and the like. (For similar sugges-



tions, see pp. 148-49 of the *Selections* for the week ending 8th April, 1871). ]

The *Núr-ul-Absár* of the same date publishes an essay on the preservation of fish from destruction, read at a meeting of the *Azimgurh Debating Club*, held on the 1st March. The drift is that as fish forms one of the staple articles of food, Government should take the necessary steps for preventing their useless destruction. These steps should be the following :—

(a) Fishing should be prohibited during the spawning season, that is, from June to September in each year. Also the catching of young fish should be prohibited.

(b) The practice of confining the water of rivers and then poisoning it in order to catch fish should be put a stop to.

(c) Measures should be adopted for preventing the destruction of the fish in canals.

The *Samaya Vinod*, of the same date, notices the burning, at 4 P. M. on the 13th March, of three thatched barracks, situated near the hospital for European soldiers at Nynee Tal. In order to remove all fear of such incidents, as well as to save Government the cost incurred in the annual repair of the thatch, the editor suggests that the roofs of all barracks should be covered with tin plates.

An Agra correspondent of the *Koh-i-Núr*, of the 16th March, states that on the 10th idem, a theft happened at the house of an iron dealer, situated in *Lohee-ki-Mundee*, a mohulla in that city. The amount of loss is estimated at Rs. 2,000.

Another correspondent of the same paper, also writing from Agra, reports a serious case of dacoity which happened in Mouzah Basaee, in Pergunnah Itmadpore. At 10 P. M. on the 9th March, a band of dacoits, consisting of two men mounted on camels, four horsemen, and about forty footmen, broke open the door of a house and commenced to plunder it. The owner of the house made his escape in order to save him-



self. A Jat ventured to pelt the dacoits with stones from the roof of his house, but fell dead on the spot from a shot from a gun discharged at him by one of the robbers. A washerman then bravely set himself against them and beat down two or three of their number, but he was killed by a sword blow. Other men who came in the way of the dacoits were wounded either with swords or gun-shots. The dacoits searched the house at their leisure for one hour, and then made off with property valued at Rs. 30,000. The Police took no notice of the incident, until the Superintendent of Police, who was encamped at a distance of two miles from the spot, became aware of what had happened, and instituted inquiries. No trace of the dacoits has yet been found.

A Ghaziabad correspondent of the same paper reports the prevalence of thefts in that town. An instance happened recently in which a passenger, while on his way from the town to the railway station, was beaten by a party of bad characters and robbed of his property.

Another correspondent of the same paper, writing from Peshawur, suggests that, in order to put a stop to cases of murder, which are very frequent there, the Arms Act should be put in force in Peshawur.

The *Jalwa-i-Túr*, of the same date, in its column of local news, points out the need of posting a Police guard at the *Haupper Gate* (Meerut). This gate, which was blocked up before, was opened sometime ago for passing through octroi articles. The writer cannot understand why the authorities have left it unprotected, and asks them to provide it with a Police guard as in the case of the other gates of the city, and to build one or two rooms near it for the constables to live in.

The *Kárnámah*, of the 18th March, is glad to observe that the attention of the authorities at Lucknow has been directed to the propriety of curtailing the superfluous expenses incurred on the conservancy department by reducing the establishment, and in connection with the proposal, suggests that the



department might with advantage be placed under the control of the City Magistrate—a plan which will ensure the cleanliness of the city. But in case of this course being adopted, care should be taken not to place too much reliance on the statements of Police constables. On a report being submitted at a police station, the officer should make inquiries from the people of the mohulla or mohullas concerned.

The *Dabdaba-i-Sikandarī*, of the same date, considers the punishment inflicted on the Kukas to be extremely severe and unjustifiable, as compared with the offence of which they were guilty. When full inquiries have been made, and a trial has been held in the cases of grave offenders like the murderers of Lord Mayo and Chief Justice Norman, who were seized in the very act of perpetrating the deed, the sudden blowing away from guns of so many Kukas cannot be accounted for.

The *Oudh Akhbar*, of the 19th March, notices a curious incident which happened at Etawah. A mahajun of that city, who had a very beautiful daughter, and had received offers for her hand from several persons, was actuated by love of money to betroth her first to one suitor on receiving a sum of Rs. 200, and then to another on the latter making an offer of Rs. 300. The result was that two marriage processions clashed and a contest ensued between the rival bridegrooms, both parties being severely wounded.

The *Benares Akhbar*, of the 21st March, in its column of local news, alludes to the mischievous rumour spread by the Musalmans of that city that Imam Mahdee, *i. e.*, the twelfth and last Imam, who is said to be still living, but invisible, would descend from heaven on the *Nauroz*, or New Year's Day.

It is also stated that on the 20th March some Mahomedans set fire to Segra, the residence of Missionaries and Native Christians. Fortunately the fire was extinguished without much loss.

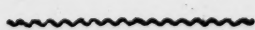


The *Nur-ul-Anwar*, of the 23rd March, learns from a correspondent at Peshawur that criminal cases are very frequent in that city. Several instances have recently happened. In one of these a person killed another with a knife on the occasion of the *Chandol Fair*; in another a sweetmeat-seller murdered a man, and in a third a young man was killed, but the murderer was not discovered. Many cases of theft have also happened.

POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Oudh Akhbár*, of the 19th March, anticipates fears from the friendship growing up between Persia and Russia, which is considered to be a proof that the connections of the former with the British Government have lost force. To this, in all probability it is owing that the Shah of Persia has expressed his unwillingness to have the Seistan question settled by the arbitration of the British Government, and seems to be inclined to call in the intervention of Russia.

In connection with this subject, the editor remarks that as *Turkistan* is an object of constant fear to the Ameer of Cabul, a regiment of English troops, with an influential officer in the capacity of Agent, should be posted at the Oxus. This plan, while it would be useful to the Ameer in removing all fear of a sudden invasion, would be advantageous to Government in checking the progress of the Russians in that country and their communication with it. The cost of the maintenance of the army could be met from the subsidy now given to the Ameer by the British Government.





The following Vernacular newspapers have been received up to 23rd March, 1872:—

No.	NAME OF NEWSPAPER.	LANGUAGE.	LOCALITY.	WHEN PUBLISHED.	DATE.	DATE OF RECEIPT.
1	<i>Akhbār-i-Anjuman-i-Panjāb,</i>	Urdu,	Lahore,	Weekly,	1872. Jany. 12th	1872. March 21st
2	<i>Naigir-i-Akbar,</i> ...	Ditto,	Bijnour,	Ditto,	Feb'y. 29th	" 18th
3	<i>Ditto,</i> ...	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	March 7th	" 22nd
4	<i>Supplement to Lawrence Gazette,</i>	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 1st week	" 18th
5	<i>Atina-i-Aib-Numā-i-Hind,</i>	Ditto,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 9th	" 19th
6	<i>Latīf-ul-Akhbār,</i> ...	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 9th	" 19th
7	<i>Agra Akhbār,</i> ...	Urdu-Hindee,	Agra,	Tri-monthly,	" 10th	" 18th
8	<i>Gwalior Gazette,</i> ...	Ditto,	Gwalior,	Weekly,	" 10th	" 19th
9	<i>Mārwar Gazette,</i> ...	Ditto,	Jodhpore,	Ditto,	" 11th	" 18th
10	<i>Rohilkhund Samāchār Patr,</i>	Hindee,	Moradabad,	Ditto,	" 12th	" 18th
11	<i>Naf-ul-Azīm,</i> ...	Arabic,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 12th	" 18th
12	<i>Muir Gazette,</i> ...	Urdu,	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 12th	" 18th
13	<i>Akhbār-i-Am,</i> ...	Ditto,	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 13th	" 18th
14	<i>Akmal-ul-Akhbār,</i>	Ditto,	Delhi,	Ditto,	" 13th	" 18th
15	<i>Nūr-ul-Absār,</i> ...	Ditto,	Allahabad,	Bi-monthly,	" 15th	" 18th
16	<i>Lawrence Gazette,</i>	Ditto,	Meerut,	Weekly,	" 15th	" 18th
17	<i>Oudh Akhbār,</i>	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Bi-weekly,	" 15th	" 18th
18	<i>Ab-i-Hayāt-i-Hind,</i>	Urdu-Hindee,	Agra,	Bi-monthly,	" 15th	" 18th
19	<i>Khurshid-i-Jahāntāb,</i> ...	Urdu,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 18th
20	<i>Samaya Vinod,</i> ...	Urdu-Hindee,	Nynce Tal,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 19th
21	<i>Muf'd-i-Am,</i> ...	Urdu,	Agra,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 19th
22	<i>Allygurh Institute Gazette,</i>	Urdu-English,	Allygurh,	Weekly,	" 15th	" 19th
23	<i>Amr-ul-Akhbār,</i> ...	Urdu,	Loharoo,	Bi-monthly,	" 15th	" 20th
24	<i>Akhbār-i-Anjuman-i-Panjāb,</i>	Ditto,	Lahore,	Weekly,	" 15th	" 20th
25	<i>Itjupātāna Social Science Congress Gazette.</i>	Ditto,	Jaipore,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 20th
26	<i>Almorah Akhbār,</i> ...	Urdu-Hindee,	Almorah,	Bi-monthly,	" 15th	" 21st
27	<i>Supplement to Lawrence Gazette,</i> ...	Urdu,	Meerut,	Weekly,	" 2nd week	" 18th







